

NetworkNEWS

Illinois Department on Aging

Summer 2002

Illinois SeniorCare Launched June 1

Will benefit 368,00 seniors; Aging Network to Play Key Role

Illinois SeniorCare, the prescription assistance program which builds upon the state's Circuit Breaker program, went into effect June 1, 2002.

"Having SeniorCare up and running is very exciting," said Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. "This program is the first of its kind in the nation, and the Aging Network is playing a key role in making sure that seniors know about it and take advantage of it."

Schreiber said the program is being administered by the Illinois Department of Public Aid in collaboration with the Departments of Revenue and Aging.

SeniorCare is for seniors age 65 and older who are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. They can enroll in SeniorCare if they are single and have income no more than \$17,720. A couple can have an income of no more than \$23,880. The program covers most prescription drugs.



Nearly \$1.2 million in funds has been earmarked for the Illinois Department on Aging to help seniors learn about programs that can help pay for their medications.

Governor Ryan Unveils Statewide Community Living and Disability Plan

Governor George H. Ryan this spring released the state's first comprehensive plan to give people with disabilities a greater say in the services they receive and to help them successfully integrate into communities throughout Illinois.

The state's "Community Living and Disabilities Plan" is the result of more than two years worth of work by representatives from the disabled community, family members, private organizations and all state agencies working with the disabled.

Ryan noted that the plan is a "work in progress" that will be updated and revised as often as is necessary to ensure that it continues to reflect changes in the delivery of services and other challenges that face persons with disabilities. The Governor issued an executive order creating a permanent Disabilities Services Advisory Committee that will provide "ongoing oversight" of the plan and its implementation.

The plan reflects the state's commitment to follow the Americans With Disabilities Act as required by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1999 ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.* ❖

SeniorCare continued on page 3 ➤

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

When I wrote my last *Network News* letter, I said our state was facing one of the most challenging budget years in our state in a decade. I also said that services for vulnerable older people are faring far better than some areas of the state budget.

Both statements remain true. However, since this Spring, the Illinois Department on Aging budget unfortunately lost the \$1-an-hour increase for agencies providing homemaker services. The state simply can't afford this at this time.

While this is disappointing, it does not mean our network can't continue fighting for the increase. We need to stay vocal in our determination to come together for the workers who care for seniors. We also need to emphasize the need for Adult Day Service Providers to receive a rate increase, as well. I am confident these raises will happen when the state is in a better economic environment.

With that said, there is no doubt the Illinois Department on Aging fared well in the FY 03 budget. We are not looking at any service reductions and remain fully funded. We will receive nearly \$1.2 million in Tobacco Settlement Funds to inform seniors about pharmaceutical assistance benefits such as

SeniorCare. In addition, the Department will expand our HelpLine to serve as a "clearing-house" for seniors and families who need information about all of the ways to pay for prescription medications. Understandably, the average senior is overwhelmed and confused by all the options. It is our job to explain to them what can help them and how to apply.

I was listening to the Illinois General Assembly debate as members made some very painful cuts. At one point, the money for pharmaceutical assistance even fell victim to the budget ax. Shortly thereafter, the money was restored as lawmakers vocalized the need to provide seniors with information and education. So, yes, we are very fortunate that funding for the outreach campaign was ultimately retained.

Legislation (SB 4580) that went into effect July 1 requires Community Care Program clients to apply for Medicaid. As a Medicaid-waiver program, the cost of Community Care services for Medicaid clients is eligible for 50 percent reimbursement from the federal government. It makes good eco-



nomically sense to pursue federal dollars wherever possible. Therefore, it only makes sense to require CCP clients to apply for Medicaid, although we would have preferred that existing CCP clients be grandfathered. And, we will need to pull together to pursue a

waiver of Estate Recovery for Medicaid waiver programs. As you know, Estate Recovery provisions are a barrier for many seniors.

In closing, I want to stress again that the Illinois Department on Aging's final budget speaks well about the accountability of our entire Network and reinforces the confidence that the Governor, Illinois General Assembly and public have in us. We will continue to make seniors proud by maximizing dollars to provide the very best in services.

Let's enjoy the rest of the summer and work to make FY 2003 one of our most productive ever!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo E. Schreiber".

Margo E. Schreiber, Director

Low interest loans for persons with disabilities

The Illinois Technology Project recently received funding for a new project which will enable it to grant loans at a very low interest rate — 3.5 percent or less — to individuals who have a disability and who live in Illinois. This grant can cover numerous

devices, including hearing aids, wheelchairs, scooters, home modifications, motor vehicle modifications and more. For more information, call Sue Castles at 1-800-852-5110. ☺

➤ **SeniorCare** *continued* . . .

Nearly \$1.2 million in funds has been earmarked for the Illinois Department on Aging to provide educational outreach about SeniorCare through the network of Area Agencies on Aging in the state, as well as expand the state's Senior HelpLine, 1-800-252-8966.

Schreiber explained that Senate Bill 2098 allows the HelpLine to serve as a sort of "clearinghouse" for seniors and caregivers who want to know about all their options in paying for prescription medication.

"The HelpLine will continue informing the public about the Circuit Breaker Pharmaceutical Assistance Program and the new Illinois SeniorCare Program but will also be able to refer them to other options available to them through the public sector," Schreiber said.

"We are so pleased and grateful to the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly for giving us the means to help seniors learn about ways to make their medications more affordable," Schreiber said. ✧

Illinois State Fairs Welcome Seniors

Illinois State Fair, August 9-18

The Illinois State Fair in Springfield will run from August 9-18, 2002.

The Illinois Department on Aging hosts the Illinois Building, also known as the "Senior Building," and will feature acts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Highlights will include the 2002 Illinoisans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at 11 a.m. on August 12 (Senior Day) and the Grandparent/Grandchild Look-Alike Contest at 3 p.m. on August 10. Bingo will be played daily on the mezzanine from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be a birthday celebration daily at 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the 150th year of the Illinois State Fair. This year, the Illinois Department on Aging will also join the Illinois Department of Agriculture in hosting the Twilight Ballroom, in the old Morton Building, north of Lincoln Stage.

DuQuoin State Fair, August 24-September 2

The Illinois Department on Aging will oversee the activities at the air-conditioned First Heat Senior Center during the DuQuoin State Fair. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Special events will include a two-day model railroad display on August 24-25. The display will be presented by the Southern Illinois Train Club. A Senior Health and Fitness Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with exhibits from area businesses and agencies. The annual "Senior Prom" will be held from 2-4 p.m. on August 29, with music provided by the Old Timers' Band from Chester. Cake walks and a crowning of a king and queen will be featured.

Intergenerational Day will be held on August 31 with entertainment by youth, skits and stories, clowns and a group sing-along.

Seniors can enjoy live entertainment daily, as well as view exhibits and receive literature and information from local and state agencies. Health screenings are available as well. ✧

Governor Ryan Awards Funds For New PACE Buses

Governor George Ryan announced in June the approval of \$1.8 million in Illinois FIRST funds for new buses and paratransit vehicles for PACE, the suburban bus system in the Chicago region.

"Illinois FIRST was designated to not only repair, replace and upgrade our vital infrastructure, but to also improve the quality of life for Illinois residents," Governor Ryan said. "These funds will be used to leverage \$7.3 million in federal funds which will permit PACE to purchase seven new buses, 28 paratransit vehicles, and other needed equipment, thereby providing more comfortable and efficient suburban bus service for thousands of riders in the Chicago area."

The seven new buses will provide transportation to and from doctors' offices. The paratransit buses are smaller than buses and are equipped with a lift or ramp for the elderly and those people in wheelchairs. The bus system will also be purchasing equipment that will better secure wheelchairs in buses. Computer equipment will be upgraded which will allow paratransit staff to monitor reservation calls at remote ADA and dial-a-ride sites. ✧

Aging Network Loses Strong Advocate

Margaret Summers' Name Synonymous with Helping Seniors

Margaret Summers, former executive director of Senior Center of Sangamon County for more than 20 years, died April 24, 2002.

Summers, 81, headed the Springfield center from its infancy, and retired in 1987 after working for

two decades to create a Center that served the comprehensive needs of thousands of area seniors. Summers led the Center from its beginnings as "The White Cottage" on Eighth Street to the present one in Douglas Park which offers activities, fellow-

ship, volunteer opportunities, meals, services, community care programs and more. She continued to serve on the board of the Mature Mob of the Senior Center and many community organizations.

Summers is survived by husband, Robert, and son, Willard Robert, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. ✻

Dr. C. Jean Blaser Retires from IDoA

Dr. C. Jean Blaser, who helped build the Illinois Department on Aging's Community Care Program into a model program for in-home care for seniors, has announced she will retire from the Department in August.

"What the Community Care Program is today is largely due to Jean Blaser," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber. "Dr. Blaser has taken the program from its genesis to a level that has made the entire state very proud and thankful. The program not only has the respect of the families it serves, but the respect of state government and the entire Aging Network."

Blaser, who had been the head of the gerontology program at Sangamon State University, was tapped in 1979 by then Illinois Department on Aging Director Peg Blaser to help implement the program. It had been newly created by the Illinois General Assembly through the leadership of another former Illinois Department on Aging Director, Josephine Oblinger.

The program started with a \$9 million budget and 3,600 clients from the rosters of Public Aid. Today, the program has a budget of \$200 million and serves approximately 40,000 frail seniors each month.

Blaser served as the Manager of the Department's Long Term Care Division for two decades until being named Special Assistant to the Director in 2001.

Asked for what she is most proud, Blaser said helping develop the Community Care Program has kept older people from entering nursing homes if they can get along with help in their home. The program has had many highlights — the Benson vs. Blaser ruling in 1982 which made CCP an entitlement pro-



Dr. C. Jean Blaser, pictured here with Director Margo E. Schreiber (right), will retire from the Illinois Department on Aging in August after working for two decades on providing in-home care for seniors through the Department's Community Care Program.

gram, getting a Medicaid waiver, development of Case Coordination Units, the development of a statistically valid and reliable DON score to determine client eligibility, and the development of the Department's Choices for Care Program.

"I'm very grateful for having worked with so many dedicated and talented people in the Community Care Program and the Network and the state agency, through all these changes," Blaser said.

Blaser doesn't have any firm plans upon retirement but noted that she will be turning age 60 in October, which will give her extra perspective as a senior citizen. "I'm going to be watching the Department," she said with a laugh. ✻

Good Health

Get Fresh! Video Available

A video titled *Get Fresh!*, produced through a USDA WIC Special Report Grant to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, is now available through the Illinois Department on Aging's lending library. The project promotes the consumption of fruits and vegetables among WIC families and supports the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. This project also benefits seniors. Four five-minute shows were produced in English and Spanish. The shows include education and recipes and shows people using Farmers' Market checks at local Farmers' Markets. Recipe cards can be downloaded free of charge at www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks.

Women's Health and Fitness Day (September 25)

The first annual Women's Health and Fitness Day is a health promotion event for women of all ages, which will be held September 25, 2002. On this day, hundreds of local organizations throughout the country will host women's health and fitness events at hospitals, health clubs, park and recreation districts, local health and service organizations, schools, retirement communities and other locations.



All groups interested in hosting a Women's Health & Fitness Day event must register to be an official host site and to legally use the event name and logo. Registration fee is \$29.95 plus shipping and includes a manual.

For more information, contact Carrie Farella, program coordinator, at 1-800-828-8225 or email questions to cfarella@fitnessday.com.

"Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" (September 24) Focuses on Minorities

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced that a new HHS-ABC Radio Networks campaign has been launched to reduce health disparities affecting African-Americans. The campaign encourages individuals to go to a doctor for a health screening as part of "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" — designated as September 24, 2002.

The campaign is part of "Closing the Health Gap," an ongoing partnership that combines HHS' medical expertise with the broadcast resources of ABC Radio Networks to provide important health information to the African-American population.

For more information, call 1-800-444-6472 or visit www.healthgap.omhrc.gov.

New Brochure

A brochure titled, *American Perceptions of Aging in the 21st Century*, newly published by the National Council on the Aging, is based on a national survey of over 3,000 adults. To obtain a copy, contact Binod Suwal at 202-479-6665 or email binod.suwal@ncoa.org.

New Web Site launched by the Attorney General

The Office of Attorney General Jim Ryan has launched a new Internet-based domestic violence and sexual assault database offering a statewide list of services for victims. The database can be reached by logging on to www.ag.state.il.us and clicking on the "What's New" button, "Crime Victims" button or the "Programs" button.

"The on-line directory will be a great asset in helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault," Attorney General Ryan said. "For the first time, there is instant access to a comprehensive listing of agencies and service providers whose mission is to protect women from their abusers."

ICC Educates Residential Customers About Electric Service Choices

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is educating residential customers about the electric services market opening up. The agency is continuing its education campaign to provide business customers, who have all had choice since December 2000, with infor-

mation to help them understand their options.

Residential and business choice allows consumers to shop for an electric supplier just as they shop for other products and services for their homes. The ICC's website contains a checklist for choosing a

supplier, a section listing suppliers as they become certified and answers to frequently asked questions. As part of the residential education effort, the ICC has launched a new website at www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois. This site includes a link to the agency's site for Illinois business owners. Residential and business owners can call toll-free at 1-877-758-4464 for free brochures.



Governor Announces Winners of 2002 Home Town Awards

Governor George Ryan in June announced winners of the 21st annual Governor's Home Town Awards and commended them on efforts to improve their communities through volunteerism.

Awards were presented in eight categories based on community population. The Governor's Cup — a traveling silver trophy presented to the community whose efforts were deemed most representative of the spirit of Illinois volunteerism — was awarded to Champaign County in recognition of volunteer efforts to expand the Crisis Nursery.

Congratulations to these winners (involving seniors):

Royalton — **Royalton Public Library.** Volunteers helped raise funds and donated labor and materials to build a new public library accessible to those with disabilities.

Dieterich — **Community Veterans Memorial.** Volunteers helped renovate a room at the township hall to house a museum, contributing items to honor the township's past.

Johnson County — **Oral History Project.** Volunteers organized a Storytelling Festival to collect stories from America's war veterans and others. Plans call for an annual event.

Princeton — **Veterans Park.** A small grassy area was renovated into a showplace honoring veterans, thanks to fundraising, land-

scaping and organization by volunteers.

Washington — **Senior Center Meal Program.** More than 450 meals are delivered on weekdays each month by volunteers who also check on the welfare of senior citizens.

Coloma Township — **Knowledge Increases Developing Skills for Success.** In 2001, Rock Falls dedicated a new handicapped-accessible library, built with help from volunteers.

Hazel Crest — **Volunteer Task Force.** Six volunteer task forces have been formed to address issues such as economic development, public safety, seniors and youth.

Piatt County — **Faith in Action.** More than 275 volunteer caregiv-

ers assisted 327 senior citizens in 2001, helping with yard work, home repair, meals and companionship.

Evergreen Park — **The Evergreen Parkett.** Senior volunteers kick up their heels and entertain others through their dance performances. The average age of dancers is 74.

Highland Park — **Kid Couriers.** This intergenerational program pairs volunteer students with seniors needing help with shopping. Kids and seniors alike reap satisfaction.

Boone County — **Council on Aging.** More than 450 volunteers helped raise funds and provide services to build the new Keen Age Center facility for seniors in the county.

Bloom Township — **Emergency Food Outreach Program.** Over 1,100 volunteers helped ensure that the food pantry delivers food to disabled individuals, seniors and those in need.

Cicero — **Senior Services.** Seniors may access many free services and a bus service, helping them remain in their homes. Volunteers assist with coordinating the efforts. ✂

Employment Grant Awarded

The Illinois Department on Aging has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for \$227,870 to train 100 low-income workers 55 and over to assist them in finding jobs in the private sector. This grant, an expansion of the Older Americans Act Title V program, is the first to be given in Illinois.

Chicago-based Operation ABLE, which has placed job seekers in public-sector jobs only, will administer the new grant. The grant will place older workers in private-sector jobs on a temporary, part-, or full-time basis.

Operation ABLE's Title V Coordinator, Julia Green, will administer the program at the Illinois Employment & Training Center, a One-Stop Career Center in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago and at Operation ABLE's downtown headquarters.

Operation ABLE plans to recruit older workers for the health care field because there are not enough qualified people to fill those jobs.

Enrollees will be eligible to take basic computer courses, such as formatting letters and memos and designing simple forms at ABLE's Technical Training Center. Upon completion they will be ready to be placed in entry-level clerical positions.

Shirley Brussell, Executive Director of Operation ABLE, said, "We are delighted to provide such wonderful training and employment opportunities for the private sector. Operation ABLE has always been a strong advocate for the older worker, and this program will add a new dimension to our advocacy programs."

Visit Operation ABLE's website at operationablechicago.org.



Joy Paeth Named New SIAAA Director

Joy Paeth became the Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging's Chief Executive Officer July 22, 2002. She has been the Executive Director of Our World Childcare and Adult Care



Services in O'Fallon for over ten years and has been the driving force behind the growth of that organization. In her new position, Paeth replaces Dr. Paul Walther.

"The Aging Network will benefit tremendously by the level of competency and professionalism that Joy is well known for," said Margo Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. "We wholeheartedly welcome her and look forward to working with this visionary leader to help seniors in southwestern Illinois." ✧

Public Hearings Conducted on State Plan on Aging

In accordance with the Older Americans Act and federal guidelines, the Illinois Department on Aging conducted three public hearings on Illinois' proposed FY 2003-FY 2005 State Plan on Aging. The hearings were held in Mt. Vernon on June 10, in Springfield on June 18 and in Oak Brook on June 26.

A brief overview of the State Plan on Aging was presented at each hearing, and audience members were asked to offer recommendations, either oral or written, on how the proposed plan can better address the specific needs of senior citizens throughout Illinois.

Most of the organizations that submitted written testimony outlined overall positive comments about the five statewide Program Plan Initiatives.

These initiatives are the following:

- Increase visibility and public awareness about the Aging Network and available services, and strengthen the information and access system for all older adults and their caregivers
- Improve the nutritional health of older adults and the effectiveness of nutrition program services in Illinois
- Expand supportive services to family caregivers of older adults and grandparents raising grandchildren in Illinois
- Protect the rights and interests of vulnerable older persons in Illinois
- Coordinate services with other state agencies and other organizations to promote the mental and physical health needs of older adults in Illinois. ✧

Legislative Update

HOUSE BILL 4580: (Madigan/MJ/Rauschenberger) **Budget Implementation FY 03** — makes changes in state programs necessary to implement FY 2003 budget recommendations.

Beginning July 1, 2002, the Illinois Department on Aging requires as a condition of eligibility for Community Care Program services that individuals apply for medical assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code. Signed June 28 PA 92-0597.

HOUSE BILL 5742: (Mulligan/Parker) **Reverse Mortgage Tax Deferral** — provides that when making a reverse mortgage loan, the lender or broker must inform people that their eligibility to obtain a tax deferral under the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Act may be adversely affected. Signed June 26 PA 92-0577.

SENATE BILL 1606: (Dillard/Bellock) **Senior Citizen Tax Deferral** — changes the income eligibility cap from an annual household income of \$25,000 to an annual household income of \$40,000. Effective January 1, 2003. Signed July 11 PA 92-0639.

SENATE BILL 1794: (Smith/Lyons, J) **Assisted Living/Pneumonia Shots** — provides that before someone enters an assisted living or shared housing facility, the facility must advise the prospective resident to consult a physician to see whether he or she needs a vaccination against pneumococcal pneumonia. Effec-

tive immediately. Signed June 24 PA 92-0562.

SENATE BILL 2098: (Donahue/Daniels) **Senior Pharmaceutical** — creates the Senior Pharmaceutical Assistance Review Committee to gather information and advise state agencies concerning pharmaceutical assistance for Illinois seniors. Creates the Senior Health Assistance Program within the Illinois Department on Aging to provide outreach and education to seniors on available prescription

drug programs. Requires the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Board to study a catastrophic pharmaceutical assistance coverage option. Signed June 27 PA 92-0594.

SENATE BILL 2393: (Rauschenberger/Madigan MJ) **FY 03 Budget** — makes omnibus appropriations for FY 03. Signed June 11 PA 92-0538.

For further information on bills of interest to the aging network, see the legislative updates on the Department on Aging Website at www.state.il.us/aging. ✻



Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber (far right) presented certificates acknowledging the service and dedication of staff who have reached anniversary milestones of 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. Persons who have worked 10 and 20 years received lapel pins, also. Recognized were: Barb Edwards, 5 years; Karla Nora, 10 years; Carol Earl, Gale Thetford, Mary Mayes, Matt Wescott, Nancy Kleinman, John Lazell, Nancy Sanson, Rick Sunley and Lisa Butler, 15 years; Mary I. Hill and Jan Costello, 20 years; and (pictured left to right) Frank Sugent, Mary Dorsey, Jay Coniglio, and Director Schreiber. Paul Crutchfield was honored for 25 years of service. A retirement award was presented to Beverly Hughs, who retired from the Department on December 31, 2001, after 26 years.

National Council on the Aging Reminds People to use BenefitsCheckUp

According to the National Council on Aging (NCoA), millions of seniors fail to take advantage of benefits available to them. Such benefits are Supplemental Security Income; Medicaid; Food Stamps; Pharmacy Assistance; Property Tax Relief; Veterans Benefits; Health Insurance Counseling; Weatherization, and Nutrition Services.

NCoA reminds people to find out about these options through BenefitsCheckUp (www.benefitscheckup.org), an online service to help seniors identify state and federal assistance programs that could help them. The program includes a comprehensive list of government programs for which older Americans are most likely to qualify, including educational opportunities, employment opportunities, financial assistance and legal services, health care, prescription drug, home energy and housing assistance, in-home services or volunteer programs. To learn more about BenefitsCheckUp you can also visit www.ncoa.org/bcu. ❧

Director of Illinois Department on Aging Honored by National-Louis University

Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber has been named a recipient of the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Awards given by her alma mater, National-Louis University.

Schreiber, of Glen Ellyn, is a 1983 graduate of National-Louis with a degree in Business Management, and was honored for her “community leadership” during a tribute in the College of Arts and Sciences in June.

“I’m elated to receive this Distinguished Alumni Award,” said Schreiber, “because I completed my degree after I had my children and after many years of working in public service. My education was even more meaningful when coupled with experience.”

Schreiber has spent over two decades working in the fields of aging and human services. Prior to being appointed Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, Schreiber served as Administrator of Human Services for DuPage County. ❧

Governor Announces Medicaid Expansion

Income Level for AABD benefit increases

Governor George H. Ryan announced in July that an additional 110,000 Illinois seniors and persons with disabilities receive medical coverage as a result of a three-year expansion of the AABD (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) Medicaid program administered by the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Effective July 1, the income threshold for the AABD program increased from 85 percent to 100 percent of the federal poverty level, giving many more seniors and persons with disabilities

access to needed health care, the Governor said.

In FY 2000, the AABD income ceiling for a two-person household was only \$375 per month in Illinois. After July 1, 2002, the income was increased to \$995 for a couple and \$738 for a single person. Families with slightly higher incomes also can become eligible for coverage by incurring medical expenses, which brings their incomes to these levels.

“Medical coverage is essential for many people to continue living in their own homes,” Governor

Ryan said. “Many low-income families find it extremely difficult to pay basic expenses, such as housing, food and utilities, and cover the cost of medical care and medicine.”

The Illinois Department of Public Aid’s FY 03 budget includes \$45 million to fund the increase to 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Currently, an estimated 375,000 persons receive benefits through the AABD program.

“Increasing the income eligibility for AABD will mean that many seniors are now able to receive basic physician care,” said Donna Ginther, Government Liaison with AARP. “With this step and the new SeniorCare program, Illinois has the nation’s strongest prescription drug coverage for seniors.” ❧

Intergenerational



RSVP **The Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

provides meaningful

opportunities for volunteers throughout the state. One example of the creativity of activities was highlighted in the program at the Odin Health Care Center in Odin where residents enjoyed an intergenerational "Girls Tea Party" on June 4 (pictured). Children also gathered at the Center this summer to take part in "Pioneer Day," where residents joined with participants to learn what life was like as a pioneer. Crafts, games and cooking cornmeal "johnny-cakes" were some of the activities enjoyed. Future events will include Family Night where families can form teams of three generations to test their knowledge of trivia from the 1940s to 1990s and also discuss how education and other topics have changed in the last century. ✂

Intergenerational Dialogue Held on Tobacco

The Illinois Department on Aging coordinated an Intergenerational Dialogue on June 5, 2002, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health's 2002 Tobacco Prevention Conference, "Making Tobacco History," to explore ways to minimize tobacco use.

Using satellite technology, 161 individuals representing five generational groups met in seven sites throughout the state. Linked to a central broadcast station located in Naperville, groups were presented a scenario and led through a discussion on strategies to prevent tobacco usage by Dr. James Gambone.

The Illinois Department on Aging partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Community College Board. Sites were located in Belleville, Carterville, Champaign, Moline, Naperville, Quincy and Rockford. ✂



Intergenerational Dialogue facilitator, Dr. James Gambone (second from left), is pictured with the oldest and youngest participants in the Dialogue. From left to right: 87-year-old William Boardman, 10-year-old Julian Gaines, 106-year-old Helen Boardman and 17-year-old Simon Blanco.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Symposium set for this Fall

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois, the Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, is co-sponsoring a Grandparent Symposium on Policies and Programs Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

The Symposium, to be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, 300 E. Randolph St., Chicago, will address the issues and needs surrounding grandparents raising grandchildren, as well as identify gaps in service.

Three panels, consisting of grandparents, program personnel and advocates, will also propose suggestions to revise or implement programs to address gaps in service and legislation.

The intent of the Symposium is to advance public policy and increase awareness regarding issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren. For more information, contact Barbara Schwartz, Coordinator of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, Illinois Department on Aging, at 217-524-5327. ✂



Trainings & Special Events

Aug 7: Countryside; **8:** Springfield; **9:** Collinsville; **Federal Grants Financial Mgmt. & Audit Update;** IL Dept. on Aging; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

Aug 9-18: Springfield; **Illinois State Fair.**

Aug 12: Illinois Building, Springfield; **Illinois Senior Hall of Fame Awards;** Walgreens; Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

Aug 14-17: Oak Brook; **Pioneer Network 3rd Nat. Conference;** Rothschild Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, Mather Lifeways, Retirement Research Foundation; 585-271-7570.

Aug 24-Sep 2: DuQuoin; **DuQuoin State Fair.**

Sep 4-5: Oakbrook Terrace; **7th An. Senior Lifestyle Expo;** NE IL Area Agency on Aging; Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

Sep 11-13: Champaign; **Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting;** IL Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.

Sep 19: Quad Cities; **Western IL AAA An. Conference;** Western IL Area Agency on Aging; 309-793-6800; www.wiaaa.org.

September 22-28 is **National Employ the Older Worker Week**, and...

the **National Employ the Older Worker Luncheon** is September 26 in Springfield; IL Dept. on Aging; John Geyston, 217-782-5039.

Sep 24-25: Rend Lake Resort; **Sep 26-27:** Decatur; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging; IL Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

Oct 2-3: Oakbrook Terrace; **Oct 8-9:** Starved Rock Lodge; **Oct 10-11:** Starved Rock Lodge; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging; IL Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

October 6-12 is **Residents' Rights Week.**

October 9 is **Long Term Care Ombudsman Day.**

Oct 12-14: Washington, D.C.; **3rd Inter'l. Conf. on Family Care;** Nat. Alliance for Caregiving, Pfizer, Ortho Biotech, AXA Found.; 301-718-8444.

Oct 15-16: Decatur; **6th An. Seminar for IL Sr. Ctrs.;** IL Dept. on Aging, Assoc. of IL Sr. Ctrs., IL Assoc. of Park Districts; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

November is **National Family Caregivers Month.**

New brochures:

- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (geared toward facility staff), Pioneer Practices, and Family Councils
- Illinois Family Caregiving Support Program (Spanish)
- Housing Options for Older Adults

These brochures can be obtained by calling the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine, 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).

Dec 11-13: Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Dept. of Human Services; Dawn Shellhammer, 217-785-3387.

May 1-2, 2003: Springfield; **3rd An. Mental Health & Aging Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Dept. of Human Services; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

May 13-16, 2003: Chicago; **American Society on Aging Conf.;** Am. Soc. on Aging; 800-537-9728.

Illinois Senior Olympics Upcoming Events

Southland Senior Games – August 8-17, 2002. Contact: Oak Lawn Park District 708-857-2200.

Rockford Area Senior Olympic Games – August 8-11, 2002. Contact: Rockford Park District 815-987-8800.

Great River Golden Games – August 23-25, 2002. Contact: Quincy Family Y.M.C.A./Quincy Park District 217-222-9622 or 223-7703.

Southwestern Illinois Regional Olympics – September 9-15, 2002. Contact: Fairview Heights Office - 618-632-1002.

Illinois Senior Olympics (Illinois Qualifying Site) Springfield – September 20-22 and 25-29, 2002. Contact: 217-789-2284.

Governor's Awards Highlight Nutrition Services



Jessie Landers, 95, of Herrick accepts the Governor's Award for Unique Achievement from Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber at a May ceremony held at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. Landers was nominated by East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging for her 28 years of participation in the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program, which she calls her "second family." Also pictured are Mike Strader (left) and Mike O'Donnell (right).



Open Kitchens of Chicago was also a winner of the Governor's Award for Unique Achievement. Open Kitchens, which was nominated by the Chicago Department on Aging, has delivered nutritious meals to homebound seniors since the mid 1980s. It currently serves two meals daily to more than 5,000 seniors in Chicago each weekday. Accepting the award for Open Kitchens were Rev. Calvin Harrif (left), long-time home-delivered meal route drive, and Rick Fiore, pictured with Director Schreiber.

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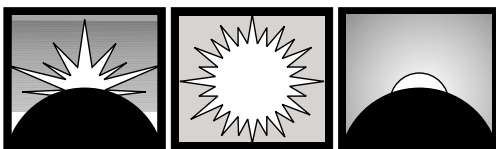
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